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## REMARKS

Keith,

Reports from Wade received, via Bill S. 6 June. Want you to see this right away, particularly info in para 1. Para 3 info also of interest. ALVAREZ is defector DCD had my name connected with. Other source(s) have made this same comment about ALVAREZ. Shall forward to you other reports of interest.

Chris. H.

*Chris - will  
para 1 info be  
passed to FBI?  
from yms*

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28 May 1979

(201-275949)

Memo for the Record

TO : Mr. William Sturbitts

FROM: Wade E. Thomas

SUBJECT: Reinol GONZALEZ Gonzales - Comments on Interview  
in May 1979 in Miami.

1. This Subject was interviewed on the occasion of both our visits to Miami and we spent at least some 6 hours with him and still haven't finished. He told us on the occasion of the last visit that he still wants to tell us about some things going on in the Cuban exile community in Miami, that some Cubans are buying arms and planning actions against CASTRO, etc. He wants to tell us, he said, that we'll know and won't be surprised but he denies all part for himself in any such illegal actions. He does not believe it possible, given internal and external conditions now prevailing, to overthrow CASTRO anytime soon but says if it were possible, he would be the first to start preparations for that purpose. When we next go to Miami we will listen to what additional he has to say.

2. Subject was for the writer the most interesting and perhaps the most productive of the people we were assigned to interview. This guy is cut from a different mold from the other 7. He is tough, intelligent, cunning, shrewd, lacking in formal education, but a real toughin-fighter who knows what he wants and knows how to go about it. He is, too, I think, a real opportunist, and this may explain in part his reason for putting on the 6 Nov 61 TV program. I had the feeling repeatedly that he was not really coming clean on many of our questions, but the only two questions to which he reacted noticeably were the ones about the TV program and Octavio BARROSO. These two visibly upset him even though I feel he knew or thought they would be thrown at him and he had his answers prepared. More about the TV program and BARROSO later.

3. This man started out as the Secretary-general of the Union of Christian Workers (UTC), at one point belonged to the ARD (an association of young democratic people), the MRP for a while, etc. In 1959 he was named foreign relations secretary of the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC), however, at the election of officers in late 1959 CASTRO showed up and imposed his slate, a Communist slate for the most part on the congress. Subject was required to turn over

*Copy #2*

his post as foreign relations secretary to ~~Orion~~ ALVAREZ. He and ALVAREZ had been on opposite ends politically in previous years, when ALVAREZ was working at the Chase Manhattan Bank in Havana and representing the bank workers union, but they had put aside their differences to work together against BATISTA. Then, when CASTRO came along he propelled ALVAREZ to the post in the CTC to which Subject had democratically been chosen. The imposition of CASTRO's slate took place at a CTC congress in Nov 1960. He claims that he has never seen ALVAREZ since the business of turning over his files to ALVAREZ was done in 1960. He knows of course that ALVAREZ went on to other jobs, eventually to the Cuban Embassy in Madrid, and eventually defected to the US. He claims to have no use for ALVAREZ, he's a dedicated Commie and he wouldn't trust him.

AMCDA-1 still in jail

4. Dr. Elena Mederos - is the aunt of PUJAL Mederos. She is currently working with the Human Rights Commission in Washington, DC. Subject says that some 30 years ago when he knew her pretty well she was democratic or leftist in her politics but very leftist in her economics. He described her as a revolutionary of a sort, with lots of prestige in Cuba in those days.

5. So far as he's aware there was only one Octavio BARROSO so the one you're talking about is the same one known to him, the same one shot in late 1961 or early 1962, he's not certain exactly when. He claims that PUJAL and BARROSO were captured at the same time or at about the same time and that it might have been PUJAL who reported to G-2 on PUJAL but in any case he (Subject) didn't do it. There were others in jail at that time, also, he says, who could have told G-2 about BARROSO's revolutionary activities. As stated, that question, as did the one on the TV program, visibly upset him so I'm not at all sure that we got the truth.

6. Subject was arrested on 11 October 1961 in a raid on the Cesar Odio Farm, along with a number of other people. On 30 September 1961 a woman belonging to his unit, Dalia JORGE, was arrested, allegedly placing a bomb in a company there in Havana called CIA. Subject was carrying documentation in alias but almost immediately he was confronted with Dalia who identified him to G-2. But, the most important evidence is the fact that over the next few days and weeks those known to Dalia in that organization were arrested; those not known to her were not. Although allegedly arrested planting a bomb, she was almost immediately released and was soon walking the street. A few months later Dalia had married a lieutenant in G-2. She later divorced the lieutenant (whose name Subject could not come up with) and then married Carlos RUBIERA, a nephew of Vicente RUBIERA who lives in Miami, Florida and works for the AFL/CIO.

7. The TV program - why? It was the first such appearance by anyone arrested that could be called in favor of CASTRO.

The MRP had a pact amongst themselves, he claims, which stated

(X) This is Fausto Odon ALVAREZ de la Campa y Sotolongo who defected to U.S. in Madrid in 1964.

that anyone captured would not talk for 72 hours, to give those still free time to change hiding places, etc, then one would be permitted, if forced to, to tell minor things, things it was thought the G-2 might already know.

He was taken to a place referred to as POINT X and stripped naked. He was interrogated almost continuously, lights were kept on and all sorts of threats were made against him. He could hear in the building the voices of others known to him in the MRP, among others Fernando Rojas, Fernandez Rivera (now in Caracas), Roberto Jimenez. His interrogators were Isidoro MALMIERCA, now Minister of Foreign Relations, but then just a secretary to the Ministry of Interior. MALMIERCA was assisted at times by Lt. ALFONSO (fnu), apparently an assistant to MALMIERCA, who was much more intelligent and much better trained than MALMIERCA. The latter did a poor job and got little out of Subject but ALFONSO did a much better job.

After several days he was told that CASTRO himself would visit him and personally conduct the interrogation. He claims that he told MALMIERCA that that would do no good for it was CASTRO himself he helped to teach Subject many years before how to fight the Commies and prevent their penetration into the labor movement. As a result, he says, CASTRO did not come but Ramiro VALDEZ did.

VALDEZ told him that the decision had already been made not to shoot him (Subject) but that some or most of the military section people of his organization (MRP) in jail would have to pay with their lives for what they, Subject and others of the MRP had done. The only way he could save them, VALDEZ said, would be to go on TV and tell the nation what his organization had been doing, tell them how useless resistance to CASTRO was, and at the same time condemn the US for its complicity in anti-CASTRO efforts.

Now, Subject claims that some of this fitted after a fashion into his own thinking and size up of the state of things. He claims that 1) he had decided some time earlier that internal resistance of the sort the MRP was conducting was useless, and 2) that it would be better to leave the country and fight from abroad, and 3) that he had proposed just such a move at a large meeting of MRP leaders held just a few days before his capture. However, the student and workers' representatives at that meeting did not support such a move so no action was taken, then came his own arrest.

An attempt was to have been made on CASTRO's life, using a bazooka from a room overlooking a public plaza where CASTRO was to appear on 4 October 1961, and VALDEZ had found out about these plans, through Dalia, Subject assumes. Anyway, Subject claims that three people were to have gone up to the room, which had been properly prepared and an escape route worked out, just prior to the ceremony. Of the three, one guy, Antonio VALADELO Vaciana got old feet and took off for the States instead. Raul VENTIA Delazo was there but did not fire the weapon, for some reason not known to Subject, and the third man, whose name he could not remember, apparently did not go up to the room either.

Well, believing that such resistance activities were in fact futile and believing that CASTRO would in fact shoot his men, and believing that he could all alone determine what was to be said on TV, he decided that to accept the offer was the correct thing to do. He could not have the blood of others on his hand, he said, unless something very worthwhile was being accomplished. He professed to VALDEZ, however, that he had no authority all by himself to make that decision and asked to discuss it with three or four MRP leaders there in jail with him. VALDEZ agreed that he could discuss it with Fernando ROJAS but with no one else, and that was done. ROJAS reluctantly approved.

He wrote the presentation he was to give on TV and he said no substantive changes were made by the Cubans. He constructed it, he said, to 1) tell them as much as possible what they wanted to hear without doing any real harm, 2) protect those still at large, and 3) give away as little sensitive information as possible. He said he realized fully what he was doing, that he would do it again if caught in the same situation, and that he takes full responsibility now as then for what he did and said and still feels it was the only logical thing he could do. Again, this was not a subject he enjoyed discussing; he appeared in fact a bit embarrassed by it all, but he knew it would be coming at some point.

8. Why didn't the Cubans release him after the ransom was paid them? Because he would not sign a paper in effect saying he was sorry and asking CASTRO's forgiveness. He met with Alonso PUJOL and three G-2 military officers to discuss the release and the conditions of the release one day after the ransom had been paid, and when he refused the G-2's conditions PUJOL took a piece of paper out and scribbled on it an agreement, which said Subject would obligate himself not to become involved again in anti-CASTRO activities if released, and he agreed to sign that. In fact, he did sign it. PUJOL then handed it to the military officers but they said the Cuban Govt could not accept it. It was after that that the money was returned.

9. How did he get out when he did? Through the efforts of Gabriel GARCIA Marquez, a Mexican novelist and reporter in Mexico City, and a good friend of CASTRO and other high Cuban leaders, and of Subject and his wife. Subject's wife and GARCIA's wife are particularly close, as are GARCIA's wife and Subject's children.

10. Subject's wife had contacted many people, prominent people in an effort to bring about Subject's release but had had no luck until the GARCIA's went to work on it. In early November (he thinks) of 1977 GARCIA and wife visited Cuba and spent sometime with CASTRO. GARCIA's wife allegedly told CASTRO that she had one important favor to ask of him, to release a good friend of theirs who had by then held for many years. CASTRO promised to do it immediately. However, by 11 Dec 77 Subject was still not out and GARCIA, on his way Spain to receive some sort of literary premio stopped off briefly in Havana to see what he could find out. He talked first

Carlos Rafael RODRIGUEZ, WHO relayed the word to CASTRO and the latter went to see GARCIA at his hotel room. He told GARCIA that he was sorry that he had not been able to release Subject when promised but that there were many in the top echelon of govt that were opposed to his release and that it took him some time to bring them around. However, he called or spoke to ABRANTES, who was with him at that time, and told him to find Subject and have him brought to G-2 offices the next morning at 1000 hours. That was done and in fact a G-2 colonel drove Subject to the airport, obtained his passport, etc, and he set off at 1700 hours on 12 December in the same plane with GARCIA. The G-2 colonel who drove him to the airport was Colonel Manuel BLANCO, who was generally referred to as Maño. Several of our other subjects had contact with this guy and most found him reasonable, intelligent and very military.

11. GONZALES, who spoke only in Spanish, although understands some English and undoubtedly speaks some, is a member of the committee which helped to negotiate the release of political prisoners with CASTRO, and he will continue to do all in his power, he says, to accomplish that objective. He has been to Jamaica once to negotiate with Cuban authorities, and once to Havana. My team member will cover those activities in his report.

12. Subject is working for himself and has been for sometime; he is in the used clothes business, and expects to rent a place for his business on 8th Street, SW, in the 5000 block, I believe, at an early date. He expects to cater pretty much to Latin Americans traveling to the US, hopefully mostly Venezuelans and Brazilians for they are the ones with the most spending money. He's already sold to many of them, has a good many friends and contacts in Venezuela, and believes that he'll get a lot of business from Latin America. He has a friend who is prepared to make a \$10,000 loan, and a bank has agreed to finance him to the tune of \$20,000 and it'll take about \$30,000 to stock his business adequately. He can and will get short term credit from some of his suppliers but will probably be limited to 60 to 90 days. He's very optimistic about the future, appears in good health, although somewhat overweight, and his wife works. He works in the office for a Puerto Rican packing company.

13. Subject was most appreciative for the offer of a physical examination, and he knows that he has no money on escrow with the Agency. Nevertheless, he probably is expecting some financial compensation for his time in prison, although this was never mentioned specifically. Tidbits of info provided by him on people on the long list, as well as on others and other subjects will be or has been included in other reports.